

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 GAC-01 OMB-01

OEP-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 RSR-01 /113 W
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R 091315 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6393

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ENRG, NO

SUBJ: NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT SUBMITS OIL LANDING REPORT

REF: OSLO 858 AND A-54

1. SUMMARY. NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS CHANGED ITS MIND AND AGREED WITH PHILLIPS GROUP THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT PIPELINE COMPANY WILL NOT HAVE A DOUBLE (OR TIE- BREAKING) VOTE. THE GOVERNMENT REPORT, WHICH HAD BEEN RECALLED MARCH 2, OVER THIS ISSUE, WAS RETRANSMITTED TO THE STORTING ON MARCH 6. IT RECOMMENDED THAT OIL BE PIPED TO TEESSIDE ENGLAND AND GAS TO EMDEN, GERMANY. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF DELIBERATIONS AND CONFERENCES WITH STORTING COMMITTEES, THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO RESUBMIT TO THE STORTING THE OIL LANDING REPORT WHICH IT HAD RECALLED ON MARCH 2 BECAUSE IT COULD NOT REACH AGREEMENT WITH THE PHILLIPS
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GROUP OVER THE VOTING RIGHTS TO BE ACCORDED THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINTLY OWNED PIPELINE COMPANY. PRIME MINISTER KORVALD, WHO ANNOUNCED THIS DECISION ON MARCH 6, INDICATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NO LONGER INSIST THAT THE NORWEGIAN PIPELINE CHAIRMAN HAVE A DOUBLE (OR TIE- BREAKING) VOTE. HE ADDED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS SATISFIED THAT IT WOULD HAVE SUFFICIENT CONTROL OVER THIS NORWEGIAN INCORPORATED COMPANY THROUGH LICENSING PERMITS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS THAT THESE VOTING RIGHTS WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY. HE ALSO NOTED THAT NORWAY EXPECTED TO EARN 4 TO 6 BILLION KRONER ANNUALLY AS ROYALTY FROM THESE OIL AND GAS EXPORTS AND THAT PETROLEUM DISCOVERIES NORTH OF THE 62 ND PARALLEL WOULD HAVE TO BE PIPED TO NORWAY.

3. PHILLIPS GROUP IS OBVIOUSLY DELIGHTED NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT WON THE ARGUMENT BUT ALSO BECAUSE THE LONG AWAITED GOVERNMENT RECOMMENDATION HAS FINALLY REACHED THE STORTING. PHILLIPS HAS A RACE WITH TIME AND MUST BEGIN PIPELAYING BY SUMMER IN ORDER TO MEET ALL THE DEADLINES INVOLVED IN ESTABLISHING PRODUCTION WELLS IN THE EKOFISK FIELD THIS YEAR. PHILLIPS GROUP STILL THINKS THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT OVER- REACTED LAST WEEK AND CONSIDERS THAT THE INCIDENT WAS A HEALTHY REMINDER TO THE GOVERNMENT THAT THE PHILLIPS GROUP WAS NOT UNDER SUCH TIME AND FINANCIAL PRESSURE THAT IS MUST ACCEPT ALL LAST MINUTE DEMANDS.

4. COMMENT: NO MORE SERIOUS ROADBLOCKS ARE EXPECTED IN THE STORTING AND FINAL APPROVAL OF THE REPORT IS EXPECTED BY EARLY APRIL.
CROWE

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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